

Application No.: 10/526,323  
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**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph spanning lines 16-30 on p. 2 of the application with the following rewritten paragraph. This paragraph corresponds to paragraph [0032] of Applicant's published U.S. Application (Pub. No.: U.S. 2006/0160158A1).

-- The present invention further relates to a method for identifying molecules that bind to the  $\beta'$  pocket through the use of an assay for molecules that bind to RNAP in a  $\beta'$ -pocket-specific fashion. In one embodiment, *Escherichia coli* RNAP or a fragment thereof containing the  $\beta'$  pocket, is used as the test protein for binding, and a derivative of said RNAP or RNAP fragment having at least one a substitution, an insertion, or a deletion within the  $\beta'$  pocket is used as the control protein for target-site specificity of binding. "Hits" can be analyzed for binding and inhibition of Gram-negative-bacterial RNAP, Gram-positive-bacterial RNAP, and eukaryotic RNAP I, ~~RNAP III RNAP II~~ and RNAP III, *in vivo* and *in vitro*. "Hits" can also be characterized structurally by x-ray diffraction analysis of co-crystals with RNAP or an RNAP fragment containing the  $\beta'$  pocket.--